

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-24 (deleted)

25. (New) An electrically conductive member for electrically connecting a plurality of solid oxide fuel cells in series and/or parallel to assemble a fuel-cell stack, comprising a metal sheet having a three-dimensional porous structure of a continuous skeleton.

26. (New) The electrically conductive member according to claim 25, wherein the diameter of voids in the three-dimensional porous structure is in the range of 0.30 to 0.80 mm.

27. (New) The electrically conductive member according to claim 25, wherein the axis diameter of the skeleton is in the range of 35 to 80 μm .

28. (New) The electrically conductive member according to claim 25, which comprise a resin having a three-dimensional porous structure of a continuous skeleton and a metal plating thereon.

29. (New) A fuel-cell stack comprising a plurality of solid oxide fuel cells electrically connected in series and/or parallel through an electrically conductive member, wherein the electrically conductive member comprises a metal sheet having a three-dimensional porous structure of a continuous skeleton.

30. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 29, wherein the electrically conductive member comprises a plurality of metal sheets having a three-dimensional porous structure of a continuous skeleton laminated on top of each other.

31. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 30, which has a layered structure which undergoes separation from the interface of the laminated metal sheets after baking or power generation.

32. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 31, wherein the thickness of the laminated metal sheets is about 1.0 mm to about 6.0 mm.

33. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 29, wherein the electrically conductive member comprises a metal sheet having a three-dimensional porous structure of a continuous skeleton which has been folded a plurality of times.

34. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 33, which has a layered structure which undergoes separation from the interface of the folded part of the metal sheet after baking or power generation.

35. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 34, wherein the thickness of the folded metal sheet is about 1.0 mm to about 6.0 mm.

36. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 29, wherein the solid oxide fuel cell comprises at least an electrolyte, an air electrode, a fuel electrode, and an interconnector connected to the air electrode or fuel electrode and is cylindrical.

37. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 29, which has been subjected to baking or power generation.

38. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 29, wherein the electrically conductive member is provided over substantially the whole length in the axial direction of the fuel cell.

39. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 38, wherein the electrically conductive member in the serial direction is provided over substantially the whole length in the axial direction of the fuel cell.

40. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 29, wherein the electrically conductive member has been divided into a plurality parts which are provided over substantially the whole length in the axial direction of the fuel cell.

41. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 40, wherein the electrically conductive member in the serial direction has been divided into a plurality parts which are provided over substantially the whole length in the axial direction of the fuel cell.

42. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 29, wherein the electrically conductive member is provided only on a part of the fuel cell.

43. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 42, wherein the electrically conductive member in the serial direction is provided only on a part of the fuel cell.

44. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 29, wherein the electrically conductive member is provided only on both ends and fuel gas feed-side of the fuel cell.

45. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 44, wherein the electrically conductive member in the serial direction is provided only on both ends and fuel gas feed-side of the fuel cell.

46. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 29, wherein the electrically conductive member is provided only on both ends and fuel gas exhaust-side of the fuel cell.

47. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 46, wherein the electrically conductive member in the serial direction is provided only on both ends and fuel gas exhaust-side of the fuel cell.

48. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 29, wherein the electrically conductive member is provided only on both ends of the fuel cell.

49. (New) The fuel-cell stack according to claim 48, wherein the electrically conductive member in the parallel direction is provided only on both ends of the fuel cell.

50. (New) A maintenance method for a fuel-cell stack comprising a plurality of solid oxide fuel cells electrically connected in series and/or parallel through an electrically conductive member, wherein the electrically conductive member comprises a metal sheet having a three-dimensional porous structure of a continuous skeleton, the method comprising replacing the electrically conductive member and/or the fuel cell with a new electrically conductive member and/or a new fuel cell after baking or power generation wherein the new electrically conductive member comprises a metal sheet having a three-dimensional porous structure of a continuous skeleton.